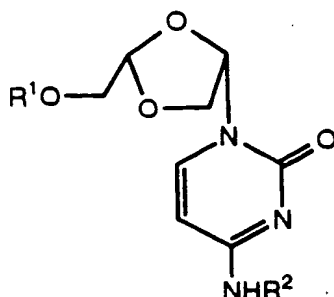


We claim:

1. A compound of formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, acyl and C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>18</sub> alkyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are hydrogen.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein the alkyl group is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, and isopentyl.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein the acyl group is -C(O)R, wherein R is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkyl group, phenyl, or benzyl.

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount to treat a tumor in a host animal of the compound of claim 1, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

7. The composition of claim 5, wherein the carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

8. The composition of claim 5, wherein the carrier is suitable for topical or transdermal delivery.

9. A method for treating a tumor comprising administering to a host animal an effective amount of the compound of claim 1.

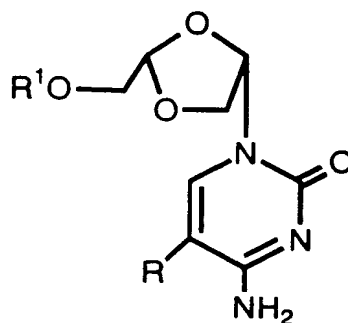
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the host animal is a human.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the tumor is cancerous and the cancer is prostate cancer.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the tumor is cancerous and the cancer is leukemia.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the tumor is cancerous and the cancer is colon cancer.

14. A method for the treatment of cancer in a host that includes administration of an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein  $\text{R}$  is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{F}$ ,  $\text{Cl}$ ,  $-\text{CH}_3$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{H})=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $-\text{C}=\text{CH}$ , or  $-\text{C}=\text{N}$  and  $\text{R}^1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, monophosphate, diphosphate, and triphosphate, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein  $\text{R}$  is fluorine.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the host animal is a human.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the tumor is cancerous and the cancer is prostate cancer.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the tumor is cancerous and the cancer is leukemia.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein the tumor is cancerous and the cancer is colon cancer.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein R is hydrogen.